

Countywide Recreation and Parks Advisory Board  
Nancy H. Dacek North Potomac Community Recreation Center  
Oct. 14, 2024

**Board members present:** Hudson, Banda, Hutton, Mullis, Ricci, Delgado, Holeywell, Sparer, Tasayco, Krauze

**Board members absent:** Stickle, Goettsch, Horton, Jacknis

**Staff present:** Gary Burnett, Jason Fasteau, Henry Coppola, Janet Dixon, Adriane Clutter, Carmen Berrios

**Ex-Officio members present:** Derek Ross, Greg Kellner, Tonya Gilchrist

**Other:** Muriel Cooper - Committee Evaluation Review Board

A quorum was established, and Ricci called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Reviewed and approved October 2024 agenda. Motion by Sparer. Seconded by Ricci. Approved unanimously.

Reviewed and approved September 2024 minutes. Motion by Sparer seconded by Hutton. Approved unanimously.

Clutter shared background on the evening's meeting site, Nancy Dacek Potomac Community Center, which is one of the newest and busiest community centers. Club Adventure after school program is hosted here. Clutter said the next community center may be in Poolesville or Montgomery Village. Clarksburg also has great needs in terms of level of service. Clutter said there's a balance between renovating and building new facilities, but some buildings are so old that their needs exceed what a refresh can accomplish. A project's rank is based on level of service in the area, equity scores, whether economies of scale are available, and other factors. Clutter said an ongoing industry trend is moving away from building smaller recreation facilities to larger, regional facilities in order to offer a greater quantity of amenities.

Tasayco asked what some of the least-used facilities are. Clutter said the least used facilities are typically the smallest -- for example Scotland Community Center, which has no parking, and Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center both rank low in terms of use.

Hudson asked about the influence community revitalization projects have on the CIP process. She also asked about whether there are forums where those decisions take place. Clutter referenced CIP as well as operating budget forums. She also cited an upcoming meeting Nov. 14 about the Montgomery Village level of service and the amenities.

Clutter provided the Montgomery County Recreation Update:

- Encouraged people to share info at budget forums.
- Basketball season will kick off soon; last year there were 5,000+ participants
- There are many festivals; follow on social media to learn more.
- Youth safety is a big priority for the department.
- The department is also working on ways to prevent ageism and keep the county age-friendly.
- Kennedy-Shriver Aquatic Center remains closed. MLK outdoor pool is also closed for ADA renovations. Damascus Senior Center library will be renovated. Holiday Park Senior Center will be closed for renovations in spring or summer.

Hutton asked about plans for affordable housing in Bethesda. Burnett said it's a priority for the county and new developments are required to offer affordable housing. Clutter said it's important to educate community members on how to participate in those processes.

Burnett provided the Montgomery Parks Update

- \$900,000 federal transportation grant will allow expansion and renovation of Magruder Branch Trail
- Expanded adaptive mountain bike program
- Harvest Festival was last weekend
- Next week is re-opening of Strathmore Local Park
- Birdability Week is coming later in the month
- Urban wood sale Nov. 9-10
- Acoustics and Ales happening Nov. 2
- Parade Nov. 16 in Silver Spring
- Garden of Lights at Brookside now on sale
- I Spy train is happening at
- Wheaton is getting a new carousel

General Board Discussion – Michael Ricci and Hannah Hutton

- BCC Questionnaire:
  - Fasteau said there would be a series of questions/surveys, with results coming out in July. This group would provide responses as a committee, not as individuals.
  - Fasteau said BCCs have grown extensively, putting a strain on staff. Cooper shared there are 90 boards. Some function well, while others while others may not.
- Ricci shared that there are interviews coming for board applicants and asked board members to participate in interviews. Jason said the process could take months.
- Ricci encouraged the ad hoc working groups to get into action and offer items for upcoming agendas.

- The November meeting will need to be rescheduled for Veterans Days.
- Fasteau announced Dixon would be moving to the PIO office

**Mullis motioned to adjourn. Sparer seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm**